(b) The demand for reserved accommodation varies from train to train, sector to sector and season to season. In fact, it also varies on day to day basis, e.g. on weekend, the demand is considerably more as compared to weekdays. As such, while the accommodation may be available in some trains at short notice, there may be heavy waiting list in others. However, in order to provide confirmed reservation to the passengers who plan their journey at short notice, railways have introduced Tatkal Scheme in certain trains the reservation for which starts at 0800 A.M. on the previous day of the journey.

Rail Route between Barh-Kondi-Ajgara-Dahma-Barbigha

† 2919. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of any means of transportation, there is a acute need for rail-route between Barh - Kondi - Ajgara Dahma - Barbigha,

(b) whether social and economic development of this most backward area would be possible if this route is connected with rail line,

(c) if so, whether Government propose to start train-services after completing survey on the said route at the earliest.

(d) if so, by when such work is likely to be completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) The need of transportation in a region can be met with by different means e.g. rail, road or water ways. So far as new railway lines are concerned, national Transport Policy Committee have laid down the criteria for taking up of new railway lines.

(b) For socio-economic development of a backward region, apart from transportation, development in the several other sectors is also necessary. Investment in transport by itself may not lead to socio- economic development.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal for a new rail route between Barh and Barbigha via Kondi, Ajgara and Dahma due to large shelf of ongoing new rail line projects and acute constrian of resources.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.